



PRIVATE LAND/PUBLIC WILDLIFE ADVISORY COUNCIL



Private Land/Public Wildlife Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes Directory

Date: December 17, 2021

Time: 8:15 A.M.

Location: DNRC Headquarters – 1539 11th Avenue; Helena, MT

Zoom virtual meeting was broadcasted on the FWP website at: <http://fwp.mt.gov/>

Time stamps are based on the following YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/rWCKKG6CzdQ>

PLPW Members in Attendance:

Ed Beall, Chair
Cynthia Cohan
Dale Tribby
Donna McDonald
Drew Steinberger
Eric Albus
Everett Headley
Lee Cornwell
Paul Ellis
Raymond Rugg
Rich Roth
Rod Paschke
Tierani Brusett

FWP staff in attendance

Hank Worsech, Director
Hope Stockwell – via ZOOM
Charlie Sperry
Jason Kool
Ron Jendro
Ron Howell
Coleen Furthmyre
Mimi Wolok

Public

Representative Loge

00:00 **Welcome and thank you**

Lieutenant Governor

00:22 **Welcome**

Ed Beall

00:25 **PLPW Goals and Responsibilities**

Ed Beall

Goals

- Get to know each other and build a collaborative team
- Get a good understanding of what the council's responsibility is
- Have a good understanding of the existing access programs, success status and program challenges

Responsibilities

- Members have been asked to serve on the council on behalf of all the citizens of Montana
- The council reports to the Governor and each legislative session provides an update on the status of landowner hunter relations, outfitting industry issues, public access agreements and all other issues related to private lands and public wildlife
- The council work's is to protect Montana's heritage and wildlife management

05:12	Introductions	PLPW Members/Staff
45:34	Welcome and expectations for the PLPW Council / FWP reorg	Director Worsech
	<u>Expectations</u>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative effort to get to solutions • 454/Access Agreements – What works and what doesn't 	
52:40	Comments/Questions/Answers	PLPW Members/Director Worsech
55:59	FWP Reorg	Director Worsech/Hope Stockwell
56:01	Proprietary Fund	Hope Stockwell
59:00	Maintenance	Hope Stockwell
1:01:59	Access Program	Hope Stockwell
1:06:10	Hiring Process	Hope Stockwell
1:06:44	River Recreation	Hope Stockwell
1:07:34	Shooting Range Development	Hope Stockwell
1:08:40	Adaptive Management	Hope Stockwell
1:09:15	Staffing Framework	Hope Stockwell
1:11:09	Questions/Comments	PLPW Members
1:12:27	Public Trust Doctrine	Director Worsech
1:18:10	Montana Outdoor Recreation Economy	Hope Stockwell
1:22:58	New/Absentee Landowners	PLPW Members
1:44:31	Break	
2:02:23	Additional reorg details	Director Worsech / Hope Stockwell
2:03:19	Authority and overview of the PLPW Council	Hope Stockwell
2:04:00	<u>MCA 87-1-269</u>	Hope Stockwell
	<p>3) (a) The private land/public wildlife advisory committee shall report to the governor and to each regular session of the legislature, in accordance with 5-11-210, regarding the success of various elements of the hunting access programs, including a report of annual landowner participation, the number of acres annually enrolled in the programs, hunter harvest success on enrolled lands, the number of qualified applicants who were denied enrollment because of a shortfall in funding, and an accounting of program expenditures, and make recommendations for funding, modification, or improvement needed to achieve the objectives of the programs. The department shall provide fiscal analyses of all hunting access program funding sources to the review committee for review and recommendations.</p> <p>3) (b) The private land/public wildlife advisory committee shall report to the governor and to each regular session of the legislature, in accordance with 5-11-210, regarding the success of the fishing access enhancement program and make recommendations for funding, modification, or improvement needed to achieve the objectives of the program. The department shall provide fiscal analyses of all fishing access enhancement program funding sources to the review committee for review and recommendations.</p>	
2:06:47	<u>MCA 87-1-295</u>	
	<p>3) The private land/public wildlife advisory committee appointed pursuant to 87-1-269 shall review proposed public access land agreements and make recommendations to the department. The department shall consider the recommendations when issuing agreements.</p>	
2:09:26	Access Programs Overview	
2:10:06	Fishing Access Program	Dustin Ramoie
2:10:32	Private Land Fishing Agreements (PLFA)	Dustin Ramoie
2:21:24	Madison River Work Group	Hope Stockwell
2:24:48	PFLA continued	PLPW Members/Dustin Ramoie
2:35:45	PFLA Funding Increase Purview	Hope Stockwell

2:36:16	PFLA continued	PLPW Members/Dustin Ramoie
2:43:58	Hunting Access Programs	Jason Kool
2:46:21	Public Access Funding	Jason Kool
2:48:14	Hunting Access Program Yearly Timeline	Jason Kool
2:51:31	Block Management Program (BMA)	PLPW Members/Director Worsech/Jason Kool
3:34:50	Regional Access Projects (RAP)	Jason Kool
3:36:13	Managed Access Project Sites (MAPS)	Jason Kool
3:55:20	Livestock Loss Reimbursement	Jason Kool
3:56:11	Recreation Management Area Program (RMA)	Jason Kool
3:56:45	Long-Term Hunting Program	Jason Kool
3:57:30	Public Access Land Agreements (PALA) (statutory requirement for PLPW to review)	Jason Kool
4:00:20	Access Public Lands Program-Home to Hunt (MCA 87-2-526)	Jason Kool
4:01:30	Unlocking Public Lands	Jason Kool
4:02:36	Block Management Access Corridor	Jason Kool
4:03:25	HB 637 Program	Jason Kool
4:04:15	Landowner Relations	Jason Kool
4:05:35	Lunch	
5:01:34	Public Elk Hunting Access Agreements (454)	Jason Kool
	Add Opportunity	PLPW Members/Jason Kool
	Better Communication and Clarification	PLPW Members/Jason Kool
	Positive PR	PLPW Members/Jason Kool
5:44:37	Decision making process – Fist to Five Consensus	Ed Beall
5:52:37	Operating Guidelines	Ed Beall
	<u>PLPW Council members will:</u>	
	- <u>Represent all the citizens of Montana, and not just specific groups or interests</u>	
	-Create idea components rather than person components	
	-Demonstrate respect for each other by:	
	Listening actively	
	Honoring and respecting each other	
	Giving the other person permission to openly speak his or her mind	
	Avoiding attacking remarks	
	Not interrupting	
	Not conducting side conversations	
	- <u>Participate in Council deliberations</u>	
	-Leave personal agendas off the table or outside the meeting room	
	-Take or call for a “time-out” when or if one is needed	
	-Attend meetings unless unavoidable; communicate ideas to other members if necessary	
	-Take personal responsibility for “catching up” on any meeting that may be missed	
	-Make efforts to contact absent members to get their input if decisions need to be made	
	-Gather and share information with area constituents	

- Welcome FWP participation in Council activities to provide necessary information and guidance while also allowing for council independence
- Utilize a facilitator to assist with meetings on an as-needed basis
- Media requests will be handled by Director Worsech, who will coordinate with Greg Lemon, Communication and Education Division Administrator for FWP, as necessary

❖ Any communication with the department, send through Hope Stockwell

6:01:54

Private land ownership - [Public Trust Doctrine](#) – [North American Model](#) PLPW Members/Director Worsech/Hope Stockwell

6:19:24

Past Council carry forward items

- Frequent updates from USFS, BLM and DNRC on Access Programs
- Elk Management Plan updates
- Continue with PSAs on hunter behavior
- Migration issues
- Hunting redistricting updates
- Update on feral pigs
- PALA Access Program overlapping with the Block Management Program
- Landowner Hunter (Access) Stewardship Program
- Hunter Behavior

6:34:00

Break

6:47:11

Council Members Expectations

PLPW Members

- Public Education – ethical behavior/recreate responsibly messaging
- Wildlife Management considerations – 454s, etc. – define meaning of Wildlife Management
- Improve quality of wildlife
- Balance needs of landowners and all types of users (R/NR/etc.)
- Fair equitable opportunities for everyone
- Promoting communication/understanding of perspectives among all sides
- Be open to broader access considerations (fishing, motorized use, etc.)
- Eye toward additional enforcement resources
- Increasing fines for infractions
- Moving to a digital world/tech enhancement
- Global look at all programs, anything outdated? Other states?
- Closer look at/reconfigure BMP Framework
- Expand existing program use to assist landowner and user opportunity
- Work on legislative relations to remove barriers/improve odds for proposals
- Develop council cohesion
- Consider impacts of land transactions on programs
- Explanation on I-61 and how it came into play

7:30:06

2022 meeting dates

Ed Beall

- February 23, 2022 – Working agenda (Billings)
- May 18/19, 2022 - PALA recommendations (Lewistown)
- August 17, 2022 – Working agenda (Great Falls)
- December 14, 2022 – Legislative issues (Helena)

- ❖ If there are specific issues in between meetings, a ZOOM meeting will be scheduled
- ❖ Recommendations to EQC for any legislative bills, need to be brought before them at their July 14 meeting
- ❖ EQC information items could be heard at their July or September meeting

7:43:33

Home reports

PLPW Members

- Frequent updates from USFS, BLM and DNRC on Access Programs
- 454
- Extra bonus points for non-residents
- Redistricting/season setting concerns
- Overgrazing public lands
- Snaring concerns – need more education
- Quality on Block Management – overrunning of the resources – overcrowding
- Landowners should be able to get a permit/license to hunt on their own property
- Trespassing and violations on Block Management are getting out of hand – need stiffer penalties
- FWP needs to manage wildlife better on public lands
- Need to stop regulations forcing/leveraging access on landowner property
- Better PR about the access programs (ie: 454)
- Work with new/current landowner management about caring for the land
- There is talk about changing some special permits in her area
- Fort Keogh (Ag Station) did not allow access this year based on high fire danger and low deer numbers
- Not enough enforcement
- PR to the public about knapweed (ie: wash off vehicle)
- Low number of deer – heavy traffic
- Still using an old elk management plan
- Corner crossings
- Reversal of I-61 - guaranteed tags for outfitters
- Not a lot of quality on accessible ground
- Overcrowding
- Lack of enforcement
- Hunters are willing to give up something to make less of an impact on the resources
- Concerns about giving tags to wealthy out-of-state landowners
- Reducing/condensing hunting units
- Privatization of wildlife
- Longtime hunters being disregarded by FWP
- More challenging as to where/how to hunt
- No hands-on hunter education
- Losing importance of landowner relations, ethics, and safety
- Wolves/Grizzly Bears

8:05:28

Public comment

8:06:09

Final comments

8:11:15

Adjournment

Next Meeting:

Update from USFS, BLM or DNRC on Access Programs

454

Update from IT staff at next meeting on ExploreMT

Ed Beall, Chair

Hank Worsech, FWP Director
